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## 2012 Crime Stats Show La Porte's Overall Crime Down for another Year

Final 2012 crime statistics for the City of La Porte were recently released by the Police Department and showed an overall decrease in crime. Initial figures collected from neighboring police agencies for 2012 indicate that the crime rate of La Porte remains among the lowest when compared to neighboring cities and is 32% below the national average for crime rates among cities with a population similar to La Porte (25,000 and 50,000 citizens).

All Texas police agencies are required to submit crime statistics to the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) on a monthly basis. DPS then forwards these figures to the FBI, which is responsible for compiling crime information for all cities in the United States. Crimes tracked under the UCR System include both violent crimes, such as murder, rape, robbery, and aggravated assault, as well as property crimes, including burglary, larceny-theft, and motor vehicle theft.

For the year 2012, the City of La Porte showed a decrease among the majority of the UCR crime categories with the exception of Murder and Aggravated Assault. Two murders occurred in the City of La Porte last year. Aggravated assaults were up from 18 to 25 events in 2012, a 39% increase. Of the 25 aggravated assault cases, 22 involved family members or acquaintances of the victim. There were 19 rapes in 2012 as compared to 24 for 2011, representing a 21% decrease. According to La Porte authorities, all of the reported rapes involved family, acquaintance, or on-line relationships. None involved strangers. Similar reductions were recognized in robbery, down 30%; burglary, down 18%; theft, down .2%; and auto thefts, down 26%.

LPPD's Chief Ken Adcox expressed satisfaction with the overall decline in crime, citing a close working relationship with the community and crediting the dedicated efforts of the many hard working employees and volunteers that make up the police department." While it's not realistic to think that we will ever be able to totally eliminate crime, we're working, with the community, to become the safest city in the State, the safest city in the nation, "stated Adcox.

For more information on UCR statistics in Texas, log onto the Texas DPS website at www.txdps.state.tx.us.